

**PRESS RELEASE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
September 2004**

The September 2004 Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the All Jamaica "All Group" Consumer Price Index for September 2004 was 1909.2 this is the equivalent of a 0.6 percent over the index for August 2004. The rate of inflation was 1.3 percent for the month of August and 1.0 percent for the month of July. For the calendar year to date the rate of inflation was 6.8 percent, 3.6 percentage below the 10.4 percent recorded for the corresponding period in 2003. Additionally the rate of inflation for the Fiscal year to date is 4.9 percent.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for all three regions 'Kingston Metropolitan Area' 0.6 percent, 'Other Towns' 0.5 percent and 'Rural Areas' 0.7 percent.

For the month of September all the groups 'recorded higher indices than in August. With the exception of the index for the group 'Transportation'. The 0.6 percent increase recorded in the 'All Group' was due to the increases in the index for the groups 'Food and Drinks' which recorded a 0.6 percent increase. 'Housing and Other Housing Expenses (0.9 percent) and 'Miscellaneous Expenses (1.5 percent).